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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/050,781	01/18/2002	Takafumi Fujiwara	03500.016116.	9574

5514 7590 06/23/2006

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EXAMINER

POON, KING Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/050,781	Applicant(s) FUJIWARA ET AL.	
	Examiner King Y. Poon	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 55-59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4 and 55-59 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/16/2005, 11/14/05, 6/14/05, 4/22/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election without traverse of the restriction requirement mailed on 3/23/2006 in the reply filed on 4/24/2006 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1, 2, 55-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

For example, the examiner don't known how to interpret the limitation of "control reading process for reading the plurality of image data packets from the storage apparatus the input/output of the data transfer means for connecting said plural processing means..." of claim 1.

It is like " I am reading a story from a newspaper the batteries of a car for providing power to..." The above sentence cannot be properly interpreted.

Regarding claims 1: It is unclear the "image data packet" of lines 8, 10, 11, 20, 21, 24 is referring to the "image data packet" of line 4 (converted and not processed image data packet) or the image data packet of lines 5, 6 (processed image packet).

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Regarding claims 56: It is unclear the "image data packet" of lines 8, 10, 11, 20, 21, 24 is referring to the "image data packet" of line 10 (converted and not processed image data packet) or the image data packet of line 12 (processed image packet).

It is unclear the image input/output apparatus of line 1 is the same input/output apparatus of lines 3, 8.

Regarding claims 2, 4, 55, 57-59: Claims 2, 4, 55, 57-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph because they depend on rejected claims 1 and 56.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4, 56-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balmer et al (US 5,524,265) in view of Tavares et al (US 5,515,537).

Regarding claims 1, 56: Balmer teaches an image input/output apparatus (fig. 2) for performing input/output of image data (column 87, lines 50-55, column 8, lines 50-60), comprising: an image input/output apparatus (fig. 2), an image input apparatus (column 7, line 67) for inputting image data to said image input/output apparatus; and an image output apparatus for outputting image data inputted by said image input/output apparatus (column 87, lines 50-55, column 8, lines 50-60), wherein said

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image input/output apparatus further (fig. 2) comprises: a first image processing unit (the controller that generates the packet of column 81, lines 35-59, to be used by digital image/graphic processors for image processing) adapted to convert image data inputted by an image input apparatus to a plurality of image data packets (column 87, lines 40-45, column 12, lines 62-67, column 82), a second image processing unit adapted to perform image processing on the image data packets from said first image processing unit (e.g., column 87, lines 45-55); a third image processing unit (e.g., transfer controller, column 87, lines 50-55, video palette, column 87, lines 5-15, or printer controller, column 87, lines 50-55) adapted to generate image data based on the plurality of image data packets and to output the generated image data to an image output apparatus; a control unit (e.g., the software of the transfer controller and frame controller, column 87, lines 50-55) adapted to control storing process for storing the plurality of image data packets to a storage apparatus and to control reading process for reading the plurality of image data packets from the storage apparatus, and a data transfer unit (data bus, fig. 1, fig. 2) adapted to connect said plural image processing units and said control unit and to perform data transfer between said plural image processing units and said control unit unidirectionally (data can only be transmitted in one direction at a time by round robin token, column 25, lines 1-5), wherein said data transfer unit transfers the image data packet to one of said plural image processing units based on an identification information for identifying one of said plural image processing units added to the image data packet, and wherein one of said plural image processing units performs image processing on the image data packet which is

transferred by said data transfer unit based on the identification information (column 19, column 17, lines 29-45).

Although Balmer teaches round robin token, column 25, lines 1-5, Balmer does not specifically disclosed the processors, control unit and data transfer unit are connected like a ring.

Tavares, in the same are round robin token among processors, teaches processors are connected like a ring (column 6, lines 64-67, column 7, lines 1-15, fig. 6).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Balmer to include: the processors, control unit, and data transfer unit are connected like a ring such that data locking the common network memory as number of processors increases as taught by Tavares, column 1, lines 29-40.

Regarding claims 2, 57: Balmer teaches wherein said control unit performs image processing setting for said plural image processing units through said data transfer unit, and one of said plural image processing units performs image processing on he basis of the image processing setting (column 12, lines 62-67, column 13, lines 1-15, column 17, lines 35-45).

Regarding clams 4, 58: Balmer teaches wherein said control unit generates a command packet (column 17, lines 25-40, column 22, lines 25-35, column 20, lines 15-25) in which a header (e.g., bits 0-3, fig. 4, column 17, lines 25-30) including the identification information is added to command data including image processing

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information to perform the image processing setting for said plural image processing units, wherein said data transfer unit transfers the command packet to one of said plural image processing units corresponding to the identification information, and wherein one of said plural image processing unit corresponding to the identification information performs the image processing based on the image processing information (column 12, lines 62-67, column 13, lines 1-5).

6. Claims 55, 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balmer et al (US 5,524,265) in view of Tavares et al (US 5,515,537) as applied to claims 1, 56 above, and further in view of Parker.

Regarding claims 55, 59: Balmer does not teach wherein said second image processing unit performs resolution conversion process on the plurality of image data packets.

Parker teaches, in order to match an image to an output device's resolution, resolution conversion is required (column 1, lines 15-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Balmer to include: wherein said second image processing unit performs resolution conversion process on the plurality of image data packets, such that the a desirable print result is obtained as taught by Parker, column 1, lines 40-45.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is 571-272-7440. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

June 20, 2006



**KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER**